



BOUGHTON-UNDER-BLEAN & DUNKIRK METHODIST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Annual Statement of Governance for the Governing Body 2022-2023

Doing all the good that we can

GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

In accordance with the Government's requirements, our governing board adheres to the three core strategic functions of a School Governing Body, as below:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Senior Leadership Team to account for the educational performance and achievement of the school and all its pupils
- Overseeing the financial management of the school and making sure that its money is effectively and appropriately spent

The Governing Body are fully supportive of the School's Methodist ethos and values as outlined below:

We aspire for all our children to become confident, happy and caring individuals who achieve personal success and develop a love of learning and a life built upon our school values.

Boughton-under-Blean & Dunkirk is a Methodist Primary School and our Methodist values are at the heart of everything we do.

- Forgiveness
- Friendship
- Trust
- Justice
- Perseverance

These are then underpinned by our learning values.

- Communication
- Independence
- Aspiration
- Engagement

Our whole school ethos is built upon and guided by them. Every school policy is written with this in mind and implemented in way that reflects our vision of doing all the good that we can and developing children as life long learners.

*Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not
turn from it Proverbs 22:6*

GOVERNING BODY CONSTITUTION

The Governing Body of the school is made up of a maximum of 13 full members who give their time for the benefit of the school. The members undertake the following positions (for the respective terms of office):

- Head Teacher
- 1 Staff Governor (3 years) elected by the staff of the school
- 1 Ex-Officio Governor (ongoing) appointed by the Methodist Church
- 2 Foundation Governors (4 years) appointed by the Methodist church
- 2 Parent Governors (3 years) elected by the parents of the school
- 1 Local Authority Governor (4 years)
- 5 Co-opted Governors (3 years) appointed by the Governing Body

The Governing Body is further supported by a Clerk from The Education People Clerking Service, Debbie Stryzyk.

During the academic year, the ex-officio governor expressed his intention to step down from his post at the church and also, therefore his governor role. Whilst the position is filled by the Methodist Church, a number of interested parties were invited into school as part of the process. A new Minister was appointed, and took up her role over the summer, joining the Board at the start of the 23/24 academic year.

In term 5 the current Chair of Governors resigned from his role as Chair and also from his position of Foundation Governor. This was for personal reasons and was with immediate effect. In Term 6, following a nomination process, a new Chair was elected. She accepted the position for a term of 4 years.

The Board has retained a Co-opted Governor vacancy for the period. This was raised and discussed at every Board meeting, with Governors agreeing they were happy to continue with the vacancy.

The school website has been maintained with details of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body operates a circle model of monitoring, meeting as a Full Governing Body 6 times a year. In addition to this, Governors work in pairs to monitor particular areas of the School Improvement Plan. The Board considers annually whether this remains the most appropriate method of monitoring for the School.

Attendance records for FGB meetings can be found on the School website, along with any declared conflicts of interest.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Increasingly the focus is ensuring the right blend of skills is available to effectively discharge the Governing Body's duties. To assist with this, we undertake an annual skills audit using the template provided by the National Governance Association (NGA) to assess if there are any gaps in terms of knowledge and experience to enable the Governing Body to recruit appropriately skilled people. It is also used to close the gaps in experience for any existing Governors.

This is to be considered further when recruiting new governors and with a view to succession planning. The skills audit identifies potential areas where governors could benefit from additional training, and all governors are encouraged to take advantage of the series of courses operated by The Education People, to improve the overall skills base.

Governors have been divided into monitoring pairs, linked to key priorities identified in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) to provide consistent monitoring of the school priorities. In the academic year 2022/2023, we took the decision to create a further area of Monitoring and appointed a Whole School Wellbeing Governor.

Governors undertaking monitoring visits complete a Monitoring Report following their visit, based upon The Education People standard template, which identifies what had been observed and any potential actions for either Senior Leadership Team or Governors. These reports are issued with any associated papers in advance of a Full Governing Body Meeting for review and discussion.

Non-Confidential Minutes of Full Governing Body Meeting are public documents and are available on the School website.

The following gives details of the Governor's areas of monitoring responsibility:

Quality of Education: J Bennett, J Perkins
Behaviours & Attitude: C Clayson, A Cummins
Personal Development: C Clayson, A Cummins
Leadership & Management: K Petts, C Clayson
SIAMS: B Feast, R Pritchard
Health & Safety: A Cummins, K Petts
Safeguarding: J Perkins, J Bennett
SEN: J Mayer, A Cummins
EYFS: B Feast
Wellbeing: K Petts
Finance: D Munro, J Mayer
Pupil Premium: J Mayer, D Munro
Governor Training: J Mayer
Data Protection: D Warner

ACTIONS AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT 2022-2023

The key activities undertaken during the course of the academic year included:

- Reviewing, challenging and assessing the impact of school priorities from the School Improvement Plan (SIP), in particular with regard to the new Wellbeing Governor appointment with a renewed focus on Whole School Wellbeing. This was equally recognised in the School being awarded the Kent School Award in Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing.
- Undertaking strategic monitoring visits seeking evidence of the impact of the way the school delivers its learning.
- Reviewing and approving updated and additional school policies.
- Holding to Head Teacher to account in obtaining parental feedback and assessing the results.
- Welcoming a number of guests to the FGB meetings to further evidence aspects of school performance and to endorse Governor Monitoring findings.

The impact of the work undertaken by the Governing Body is that:

- Governors have actively strengthened their skillset to ensure effective governance and have improved their position with regards to ongoing succession planning and undertaken appropriate training through The Education People and Methodist Academies Schools Trust
- Governors have supported the Head Teacher to make budgetary decisions in response to cuts in funding and rising costs to purchase goods and services.
- Governors have provided an appropriate level of challenge to the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team as evidenced in the Monitoring Reports and Minutes of FGB meetings.

PLANS FOR 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

Under the new Chair of Governors, a Governing Body Self- Evaluation (supplied by The Key) was issued to all Governors. A full review and Action Plan was prepared and shared at the start of the new academic year, focusing on those areas with the lowest scores and/or the highest impact on the operation and effectiveness of the Board. In broad terms, these actions are:

- To improve efficiency and effectiveness of the Governing Body in the 3 key areas of Communication and Relationships, Monitoring and Visits to School, and FGB Meetings.
- To deepen and strengthen links with the School with particular focus on the role of the Teacher Governor, informal visits to School, and Recognition.

The Governing Body welcome any feedback or suggestions, and can be contacted through the School Office. Alternatively, the Chair of Governors, Mrs Jenny Mayer, can be contacted directly on Jenny.Mayer@bad.kent.sch.uk